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HYBRIDS ON 4 OUT OF 7 ACRES OF CORN

Corn hybrids, no longer a novelty but accepted on their proven merits, continue to grow in popularity. In part of the central Corn Belt, hybrids have been accepted so completely that open-pollinated seed corn now is a novelty. The non-hybrid acreage in this area is virtually confined to the fields in which parent stock for hybrid seed is propagated. Equal in importance, perhaps, with the increased acreage desired under wartime conditions, hybrids are contributing to the stepped-up production of corn demanded by the emergency. The increment in yield, estimated at about 20 percent over open-pollinated varieties under identical conditions, enables producers to obtain the desired production with relatively small increases in planted acreage, thus releasing acres for other crops also in emergency demand.

The continued growth in popularity of hybrid seed corn is revealed in estimates of the Crop Reporting Board. Nearly 57 million acres, or 57 percent of the corn acreage of the United States, was planted with hybrid seed in 1944. This is an increase of 7 million acres over the 1943 hybrid acreage, which in turn was 8 million acres more than in 1942. Of this 1944 total nearly 52 million acres of hybrid are in the main Corn Belt, where there were 46 million acres in 1943. These Corn Belt acreages represent 91 and 93 percent, respectively, of all the hybrid acreage in the country. Since this is the area of higher yields per acre it follows that about three-fourths of the total production of corn in the United States in 1944 will be that grown from hybrid seed.

Already hybrids occupy 99 percent of the corn acreage in Iowa, 97 percent in Indiana, 96 percent in Illinois, and 94 percent in Ohio. Portions of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Nebraska immediately adjacent to those States also grow 95 or more percent hybrids. Covering an adjacent area in these latter States and extending into parts of Michigan, Kansas and Kentucky, is a band in which 80 percent or more of the corn acreage is in hybrids. This area has widened and intensified recently, particularly to the northward as newly adapted and silage hybrids have been developed.

Wherever adapted hybrids are available their use has been intensified. Scattered areas, as in Connecticut, New Jersey, in irrigated sections of Colorado, Utah, Idaho, and the Pacific Coast States have expanded the use of hybrid seed. Adapted crosses are appearing in considerable volume in Middle Atlantic and central Southern States to the westward, also in Florida. Some headway also is shown in adapting and adopting hybrids in other Southern and Western States. Individual States in which half or more of the corn acreage in 1944 was planted with hybrid seed, in rank by percentages, include Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, Nebraska, Michigan, New Jersey, Idaho, Maryland, Rhode Island and Connecticut, Pennsylvania and South Dakota, Oregon, and Massachusetts. Five of these, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Oregon, and Massachusetts are additions to a similar list for 1943.

From an estimate of 0.1 percent of the national total or 143,000 acres in 1933, in 12 years the hybrid acreage has expanded to 57 percent and 56,818,000 acres in 1944. Annual estimates are tabulated below:

| Year | Percent of | Acres of | Year | Percent of | Acres of | Year | Percent of | Acres of |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| total_acres | _hybrid | total_acres | total_acres | _hybrid | total_acres | total_acres | _hybrid | total_acres |
| 1933 | 0.1 | 143,000 | :1937 | 7.9 | 7,632,000 | :1941 | 39.1 | 34,226,000 |
| 1934 | 0.4 | 372,000 | :1938 | 14.9 | 14,076,000 | :1942 | 45.7 | 41,636,000 |
| 1935 | 1.1 | 1,140,000 | :1939 | 22.5 | 20,621,000 | :1943 | 51.3 | 49,811,000 |
| 1936 | 3.1 | 3,166,000 | :1940 | 30.4 | 27,066,000 | :1944 | 57.0 | 56,818,000 |

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CORN ACREAGE PLANTED WITH HYBRID SEED, 1943-1944

| State | 1943 | | 1944 | | Percent | Thous.acres | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|-------------|--|--|
| | : Percentage : Indicated | | : Percentage : Indicated | | | | | |
| | All Corn | planted with Hybrid corn | All Corn | planted with Hybrid Corn | | | | |
| | Acreage | Hybrid seed | Acreage | Hybrid seed | Acreage | Thous.acres | | |
| | Thous. acres | Percent | Thousand acres | Percent | Percent | Thous.acres | | |
| Me. | 16 | 17.0 | 3 | 17 | 30.0 | 5 | | |
| N.H. | 15 | 20.0 | 3 | 16 | 35.0 | 6 | | |
| Vt. | 64 | 30.0 | 19 | 65 | 36.0 | 23 | | |
| Mass. | 41 | 35.0 | 14 | 46 | 50.0 | 23 | | |
| R. I. | 8 | 45.0 | 4 | 8 | 55.0 | 4 | | |
| Conn. | 48 | 55.0 | 26 | 52 | 55.0 | 29 | | |
| N. Y. | 654 | 29.8 | 195 | 732 | 31.0 | 227 | | |
| N. J. | 181 | 72.3 | 131 | 194 | 69.0 | 134 | | |
| Pa. | 1,298 | 44.7 | 580 | 1,402 | 54.0 | 757 | | |
| Ohio | 3,544 | 91.5 | 3,243 | 3,828 | 94.0 | 3,598 | | |
| Ind. | 4,338 | 95.9 | 4,160 | 4,685 | 97.0 | 4,544 | | |
| Ill. | 8,621 | 96.1 | 8,285 | 9,224 | 96.0 | 8,855 | | |
| Mich. | 1,562 | 62.9 | 982 | 1,812 | 71.0 | 1,287 | | |
| Wis. | 2,529 | 81.2 | 2,054 | 2,706 | 85.0 | 2,300 | | |
| Minn. | 5,356 | 87.5 | 4,686 | 5,999 | 89.0 | 5,339 | | |
| Iowa | 10,937 | 99.3 | 10,860 | 11,484 | 99.0 | 11,369 | | |
| Mo. | 4,931 | 70.7 | 3,486 | 5,030 | 79.0 | 3,974 | | |
| N. Dak. | 1,188 | 16.3 | 194 | 1,283 | 22.0 | 282 | | |
| S. Dak. | 3,834 | 43.8 | 1,679 | 3,987 | 54.0 | 2,153 | | |
| Nebr. | 8,502 | 63.5 | 5,399 | 9,012 | 72.0 | 6,489 | | |
| Kans. | 3,872 | 30.1 | 1,165 | 3,756 | 44.0 | 1,653 | | |
| Corn Belt | 59,214 | 78.0 | 46,193 | 62,806 | 82.5 | 51,843 | | |
| Del. | 130 | 26.2 | 34 | 139 | 32.0 | 44 | | |
| Md. | 457 | 46.8 | 214 | 503 | 57.0 | 287 | | |
| Va. | 1,345 | 12.7 | 171 | 1,399 | 23.0 | 322 | | |
| W. Va. | 417 | 29.5 | 123 | 425 | 31.0 | 132 | | |
| N. C. | 2,335 | 1.7 | 40 | 2,358 | 2.0 | 47 | | |
| S. C. | 1,561 | 0.7 | 11 | 1,467 | 1.0 | 15 | | |
| Ga. | 3,804 | 0.6 | 23 | 3,652 | 1.0 | 37 | | |
| Fla. | 747 | 4.8 | 36 | 732 | 11.0 | 81 | | |
| Ky. | 2,753 | 35.8 | 986 | 2,891 | 49.0 | 1,417 | | |
| Tenn. | 2,883 | 7.8 | 225 | 2,710 | 10.0 | 271 | | |
| Ala. | 3,257 | 1.5 | 49 | 3,192 | 2.0 | 64 | | |
| Miss. | 2,880 | 3.6 | 104 | 2,707 | 4.0 | 108 | | |
| Ark. | 2,108 | 8.0 | 169 | 2,045 | 14.0 | 286 | | |
| La. | 1,431 | 1.9 | 27 | 1,317 | 4.0 | 53 | | |
| Oklahoma | 2,097 | 4.9 | 103 | 1,971 | 7.0 | 138 | | |
| Tex. | 5,610 | 1.5 | 84 | 5,049 | 3.0 | 151 | | |
| Mont. | 198 | 2.8 | 6 | 203 | 4.0 | 8 | | |
| Idaho | 36 | 54.3 | 20 | 32 | 61.0 | 20 | | |
| Wyo. | 124 | 3.2 | 4 | 103 | 5.0 | 5 | | |
| Colo. | 987 | 14.6 | 144 | 957 | 21.0 | 201 | | |
| N. Mex. | 210 | 5.5 | 12 | 200 | 10.0 | 20 | | |
| Ariz. | 37 | - | - | 40 | - | - | | |
| Utah | 29 | 21.7 | 6 | 26 | 34.0 | 9 | | |
| Nev. | 4 | 9.8 | - | 4 | 14.0 | 1 | | |
| Wash. | 31 | 41.9 | 13 | 31 | 48.0 | 15 | | |
| Oreg. | 52 | 43.0 | 22 | 43 | 52.0 | 22 | | |
| Calif. | 74 | 23.0 | 17 | 67 | 20.0 | 13 | | |
| U.S. | 97,136 | 51.3 | 49,811 | 99,606 | 57.0 | 56,818 | | |